

466(1) MONIFIETH

BURGH OF MONIFIETH.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1926.

To the Provost, Magistrates and Councillors,
the Burgh of Monifieth.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information the Annual Report for the year 1926 on the vital statistics, health, and sanitary conditions of the Burgh of Monifieth.

It is the duty of the Registrar-General to compile the statistics for each area, and the figures appended are mostly obtained from that source.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	1926.	1925.	Increase.	Decrease.
Population, - - -	3,219	3,216	3	0
Acreage of Burgh, - -	344	344	0	0
Persons per acre, - -	9.35	9.35	0	0

The Registrar-General notes that in the preparation of the local population estimates for 1926 he has applied the emigration adjustment to all Burghs and Districts in Scotland instead of only to those Burghs and Districts where the population estimates were made otherwise than on housing statistics. The result of this change of method is generally to lower the estimates of the 16 larger Burghs and to increase those of other public health districts.

DEATH RATES.

	1926.	1925.	Increase.	Decrease.
Deaths (corrected) both sexes, - - -	50	52	0	2
Males, - - -	23	22	1	0
Females, - - -	27	30	0	3
Death Rate per 1000 (corrected and adjusted), -	13.3	14	0	.7
Deaths under 1 year, - - -	3	3	0	0
Deaths under 1 year per 1000 births, - -	91	77	0	14
Deaths at 65 and upwards, - - -	25	30	0	5
Deaths due to principal epidemic diseases, -	3	2	1	0
Deaths due to tuberculous disease, - -	2	3	0	1

The number of deaths registered in the Burgh was 38, but 12 deaths of persons belonging to the Burgh who had died elsewhere were transferred to us, making the total 50, as noted above.

The following table shews the estimated population, the number of deaths, and the death rate for each year during the last decennium :—

Year.	Estimated Population.	Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000.
1917	3507	42	11·3
1918	3603	42	11·0
1919	3669	40	10·3
1920	3738	42	10·6
1921	3225	25	7·3
1922	3289	47	13·5
1923	3196	49	13·8
1924	3143	35	9·6
1925	3216	52	14·0
1926	3219	50	13·3

BIRTH RATE.

	1926.	1925.	Increase.	Decrease.
Births (Corrected), - - -	33	39	0	6
Legitimate, - - -	32	39	0	7
Illegitimate, - - -	1	0	1	0
Birth Rate per 1000 population, -	10·3	12·1	0	1·8

The following table shews the number of births and the birth rate for the last decennium :—

Year.	Estimated Population.	Births.	Birth Rate per 1000 population.
1917	3507	32	9·1
1918	3603	27	7·5
1919	3669	46	12·5
1920	3738	68	18·2
1921	3225	62	19·2
1922	3289	55	16·7
1923	3196	58	18·1
1924	3143	39	12·4
1925	3216	39	12·1
1926	3219	33	10·3

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health issued to Medical Officers of Health, I have to consider the matters affecting the health of the Burgh in the following order:—

- (a) *A general account of influences and conditions injurious or dangerous to the health of the Burgh, and of the measures that in his opinion should be adopted for its improvement.*

Street drainage shews steady improvement. Additional bathrooms and improved washhouses have been provided.

From time to time ashpits are replaced by dustbins.

Extra urinal accommodation has been provided at one factory.

The drinking facilities and the lavatory accommodation at the public school have been brought up to date.

- (b) *A statement of the general enquiries he has made during the year, and of any special enquiries as to Sanitary matters.*

Enquiries of this nature are principally concerned with cases of infectious disease and with the housing of such cases. This subject will be gone into later in this Report.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.—These are regularly visited and inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and are always found clean and cool.

- (c) *A general statement of any matters to which he has given advice or granted certificates, including any action as to offensive trades.*

Certificates were issued to school children who had been absent through infectious disease, certifying that their attendance might be resumed without the risk of infecting others.

From the Public School were reported Mumps (86 cases), and Chickenpox (2 cases), and advice was given as to procedure.

The Public Health Authority are much indebted to the Education Authority for their co-operation and interest.

There are no offensive trades in the Burgh.

The pig-styes are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and are kept as inoffensive as possible.

(d) *A specific account of the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in Workshops and Workplaces, in terms of Section 132 of that Act.*

The Sanitary Inspector visits these places regularly, 48 visits having been made during the past year, special attention being given to the bakehouses.

H.M. Inspector of Factories pays periodical visits to inspect the structural work, to report as to the sufficiency of exits in case of fire, and to report as to any nuisance remediable under the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

One bakehouse was found not to have been whitewashed. On intimation of this omission to the occupier it was attended to forthwith.

The following are upon the Burgh Register :—

Factories—

Aerated Water Manufacturer,	-	1	
Blacksmith and Implement Maker,		1	
Carpenters and Joiners,	-	-	3
Laundry,	-	-	1
Foundries,	-	-	2
Flax Mill,	-	-	1
Electric Station,	-	-	1
		—	10

Workshops—

Motor Repair Shop,	-	-	1
Bakehouses,	-	-	3
Golf Clubmakers,	-	-	2
Bootmakers,	-	-	4
Plumbers,	-	-	3
Painters,	-	-	4
Watchmaker,	-	-	1
Dressmakers and Tailors,	-	-	3
Printer,	-	-	1
Concrete Block Work,	-	-	2
		—	24
		—	
Total	-		34
		—	

(e) *An account of any proceedings under the Housing (Scotland) Acts.*

In September, 1926, I reported to the Board of Health, at their request, my estimate of housing requirements in the Burgh.

These estimates are framed having regard *inter alia* to the need for houses required

(a) to relieve overcrowding, - - - - -	10
(b) to replace houses at present occupied which should be closed and demolished (not including houses entered under (c)) - -	Nil
(c) to rehouse persons who will be dispossessed by Improvement and Reconstruction Schemes under Part II. of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1925, - . - - -	Nil
(d) to accommodate persons at present living in furnished apartments or otherwise who desire a house, - - - - -	10

Generally speaking the housing of the working class in the Burgh is satisfactory so far as modern improvements and state of repair goes.

In dealing with an insanitary dwelling under the Housing and Town Planning Act, a Closing Order is pronounced at once under the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health, and it takes effect, unless the owner of the property appeals to the Sheriff, within 14 days.

No action has been required in this connection, as houses in this Burgh are well looked after and kept in good order. They are properly constructed and sufficiently spaced from their neighbours.

(f) *A statement showing whether any conditions have arisen or are expected to arise pointing to the expediency of a town planning scheme for the proper control of further development.*

The original Housing Scheme consisted of 50 houses, to be erected on five acres of ground acquired. This was cut down by the Ministry and 30 houses of three and four rooms have been erected and are all tenanted. During the past year fully two acres of the original five, have, with the approval of the Board of Health, been feued to a local builder, and plans passed for 20 houses, single bungalows and semi-detached cottages which brings the total up to the 50 houses first contemplated by the Council.

The Town Council are committed to a Town Planning Scheme which will link up on the west with the east side of the Scheme prepared by the City of Dundee.

(g) *An account of any action taken under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.*

No action has been required.

(h) *Proceedings under the Burgh Police Act (Slaughter-houses).*

No action has been taken. There is no slaughter-house in the Burgh.

(i) *An account of the hospital accommodation available for persons suffering from infectious disease (including the means provided for the conveyance of such persons) and of the houses of reception, with observations on the furnishings, maintenance, administration, and adequacy of such accommodation, &c.*

Hospital accommodation for infectious disease continues to be provided in the Isolation Hospital, Forfar, and Noranside Sanatorium, by agreement with the Forfar County Council.

Two motor ambulance vans are used for the purpose of conveyance, and are always accompanied by a trained nurse who superintends removal. Of the 35 cases notified, 13 cases of scarlet fever, 1 case of diphtheria and 2 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have been removed to Hospital this year, and 4 deaths (2 from tuberculosis and 2 from scarlet fever) fall to be recorded. Cases are well housed and treated in these Hospitals and no adverse criticism can be offered either by patients or by myself. The Hospital is properly staffed, and the wards for the different infectious diseases are in separate stone buildings. The smallpox ward, which is seldom required, is made of wood and corrugated iron. None of these blocks communicate with one another directly or indirectly.

No house of reception is provided by the Burgh.

(j) *An account of the premises, with necessary apparatus and attendance available for the destruction or disinfection of infected articles (including the means for the conveyance and return of such articles), also of other processes of disinfection in use, with observations on the adequacy of such arrangements and processes.*

There is no change in this respect.

Infected clothing, bedding, &c.. is removed with the patient to the Isolation Hospital, put through the steam disinfecter (Washington Lyon), and returned by rail to the home.

Houses and rooms with their contents are disinfected by Formaline vapour spray, and infected articles by means of soaking in Izal solution. Many articles are destroyed by fire. The disinfection of the houses, &c., is done by the Sanitary Inspector.

Such arrangements and processes are both adequate and satisfactory.

(k) An account of the action taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of infectious disease.

On receiving notification of the existence of a case of infectious disease, the following is the method of procedure adopted:—The house is as soon as possible visited, and enquiries are made into the circumstances under which the disease has arisen, the sanitary condition of the house and surroundings, drainage, number of inmates, source of milk supply, the necessity for removal to Hospital, or the sufficiency of means of isolation at home, the school attended by patient or other children of the household, and any other circumstances which may throw light upon the source of infection. Householders are served with a notice containing instructions as to prevention and disinfection, also Sections 50 and 53 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, prohibiting the exposure of infected articles, &c

Notice or intimation of each case amongst school children, or in their homes is given at once to the Education Authority.

Through the co-operation of the Education Authority, notification is made by the Headmaster of any cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases, such as measles, mumps, chickenpox and whooping-cough, amongst school children, or of cases coming to his knowledge in the houses occupied by school children.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided free to necessitous cases in the Burgh, and is made use of as cases arise.

The cases of infectious diseases which have been notified this year have all more or less been of a sporadic nature. There has been no epidemic, except Mumps amongst school children.

One case of Diphtheria, a visitor from Dundee, was removed to King's Cross Hospital, Dundee. It was apparent that this child brought the infection from Dundee.

Cases notified during the year are as follows :—

Infectious Diseases.	QUARTERS.				Total.
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	
Erysipelas, -	0	0	0	1	1
Scarlet Fever, -	13	4	2	6	25
Diphtheria, -	1	2	0	1	4
Pneumonia, -	3	0	0	0	3
Tuberculosis, -	1	0	1	0	2
	18	6	3	8	35

There were four deaths, two from Scarlet Fever, and two from Tuberculosis.

The following table shews in detail the notifications during the last decennium :—

Diseases.	1926.	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.	1919.	1918.	1917.
Scarlet Fever, -	25	9	20	12	18	12	12	3	1	4
Diphtheria. -	4	1	2	1	2	2	10	5	2	1
Erysipelas, -	1	6	6	5	9	1	2	0	4	2
Tuberculosis, -	2	2	3	6	2	4	3	0	4	4
Malaria, -	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dysentery, -	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia, -	3	2	1	0	4	0	2	0	0	0
Enteric Fever, -	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total, -	35	21	32	24	35	20	29	10	11	11

The next table gives the number of notifications received each year during the last decennium, the number treated at home, the number and percentage of those removed to Hospital, the number of those who recovered, and the number of deaths, with the cause of death :—

Year.	Number of Notifications.	Treated at Home.	Removed to Hospital		Recovered.	Deaths.	Cause of Death.
			Number.	Per cent.			
1926	35	19	16	45	29	6	{ Pneumonia, 2 Scarlet Fever, 2 Tuberculosis, 2
1925	21	18	3	14	16	5	{ Pneumonia, 1 Scarlet Fever, 1 Tuberculosis, 3
1924	32	16	16	50	31	1	Erysipelas, 1
1923	29	20	9	31	25	4	{ Whooping Cough 1 Tuberculosis 3
1922	35	19	16	45	33	2	{ Scarlatina, 1 Pneumonia, 1
1921	23	12	11	47	21	2	Phthisis, 2
1920	82	68	14	17	80	2	{ Erysipelas, 1 Phthisis, 1
1919	10	7	3	30	10	0	—
1918	11	7	4	36	8	3	{ Diphtheria, 1 Phthisis, 2
1917	11	6	5	45	8	3	{ Tuberculous Disease, 3
1917-26	289	192	97	33	261	28	

The following table shews the number of cases of infectious disease, the number of deaths from the different diseases, and the case mortality during the last decennium :—

Diseases.			Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.	Case Mortality.
Scarlet Fever,	-	-	116	4	3
Diphtheria,	-	-	30	1	3
Erysipelas,	-	-	36	2	5
Tuberculosis,	-	-	30	16	53

The Bacteriological Laboratory in Dundee examines and reports upon material from the Burgh, and this facility is taken advantage of, as required, by the doctors practising in the area.

The Public Health (Infective Jaundice) Amendment Regulations (Scotland) 1925 continue the 1925 Regulations to end of 1926. No cases have been notified.

The Public Health (Infantile Paralysis, Polio-encephalitis and Encephalitis Lethargica) Regulations (Scotland) 1925, added to the list of notifiable diseases.

Last year there were 13 Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objection to vaccination corresponding to 39 births, this year 11 Declarations and 32 births.

(l) *A statement of any action taken under the Public Health (Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, etc.) Regulations (Scotland), 1919, and the Public Health (Infectious Disease Carriers) Regulations (Scotland), 1921.*

Such cases are kept under observation, isolated in acute illness, and given suitable directions as to prevention of spread of infection, as with other diseases.

(m) *A statement of the facilities available for the treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases.*

The Scheme of the Local Authority is worked in co-operation with the Scheme of the City of Dundee. The arrangements made are working satisfactorily and include the following:—

1. Provision for Medical Practitioners obtaining, free of charge, a Report on material from a suspected case of Venereal Disease.
2. Treatment of Venereal Diseases.
 - (a) Treatment Centre at the Royal Infirmary and 1 Fleuchar Street, Dundee.
 - (b) Provision of beds for treatment at Royal Infirmary.
 - (c) Home treatment of Venereal Diseases.
3. Supply of Salvarsan or its substitutes.

(n) *A statement as to the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the Burgh, and the extent to which the same have been influenced by conditions capable of removal or mitigation.*

Where it was found possible and expedient, cases of infectious disease were isolated at home, the others sent to Hospital. Two cases were sent to the Sanatorium during the year. The following table shews the number of cases isolated at home, and the number of rooms in those houses:—

Diseases.		Rooms.					
		1	2	3	4	5	over 5
Scarlet Fever,	-	0	3	5	0	1	3
Diphtheria,	-	0	1	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia,	-	0	1	2	0	0	0
Erysipelas,	-	0	1	0	0	0	0
		0	6	9	0	1	3

The cases removed to Hospital are arranged thus :—

				Rooms.		
				1	2	3
Scarlet Fever,	-	-	-	1	6	6
Diphtheria,	-	-	-	0	0	1
				1	6	7

(p) *A statement of the arrangements made under the Scheme of Maternity Service and Child Welfare.*

Births in the Burgh are notified to the office of the Sanitary Inspector, who, in turn, notifies the Health Visitor. At the time of the notification the Sanitary Inspector issues a leaflet of instructions *re* the upbringing of infants.

Infantile Mortality—

(a) Number of Deaths	-	-	-	3
(b) Rate per 1,000 Births	-	-	-	91
(c) Cause of Death—				
Under 1 week,	-	-	-	1 Premature Birth.
1 week and under 4 weeks,	-	-	-	0
4 weeks and under 3 months,	-	-	-	1 Congenital Debility.
3 months and under 6 months,	-	-	-	1 Pyrexia.
6 months and under 12 months,	-	-	-	0
Total,	-	-	-	3

Births—

- (a) Number Registered 33. (I.) Legitimate 32. (II.) Illegitimate 1.
- (b) Number Notified 33.
- (c) Attendance by Doctor. There is no midwife.
- (d) Number of Still-births 2.

Maternal Mortality—

No deaths.

Report under Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915—

There are no midwives in practice in this Burgh.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum or of Puerperal Sepsis were reported.

There were two Still-births, and no cases of emergency.

No comment is called for.

Home Visitation—

(1) Infants—

(a) Number of First Visits 27.

(b) Number of Revisits 312.

(c) Number of Infants at age of 6 months, (I.) Breast Fed, 23, (II.) Partially Breast Fed, 1, (III.) Artificially Fed, 9.

(d) Number of Infants born, (I.) Prematurely 0, (II.) at full time 33.

(2) Children (1-5 years)—

(a) Number of First Visits, 72.

(b) Number of Revisits, 288.

Ante-natal, Post-natal and other consultations—

This is not taken advantage of as the Medical Officer is always in and out of the houses as the family doctor.

Child Welfare Consultations—

Number of weekly sessions and duration of each session. 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 2.30-3 p.m.

(a) Total number of attendances, (I.) under 1 year of age, 16.
(II.) over 1 year of age, 0.

(b) Number of First attendances, (I.) under 1 year of age, 9.
(II.) over 1 year of age, 0

(c) Illnesses recorded—none.

Special Treatment Centres—

Teeth, Eyes, Other Ailments, Insulin—none.

Food and Milk—

No applications have been made.

Measles—

None.

Whooping Cough—

None.

The following table shows the number of registered births, deaths under one year, and the Infantile Mortality Rate for the last decennium :—

Year.	Registered Births.	Deaths under 1 year	Death Rate per 1000 Births.
1917	32	3	94
1918	27	1	37
1919	46	3	65
1920	68	3	44
1921	62	2	32
1922	55	6	109
1923	58	5	86
1924	39	2	51
1925	39	3	77
1926	33	3	91
1917-1926	459	31	67

(r) Observations on the Milk Supply to the Burgh.

Co-operative arrangements still continue satisfactorily with the County Committee.

There is at present one producer in the Burgh, whose premises are inspected regularly and are well kept.

There are several purveyors who come into the Burgh from the surrounding area, over which the County Authorities have supervision.

The milk supply is adequate, and no action has been found necessary during the year.

Reference has already been made on Dairies and Milkshops in Section (b).

The Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914 came into operation on 1st September 1925. Leaflet for Dairymen *re* "Symptoms of more common Infectious Diseases" is issued as required.

An arrangement has been made in this connection with the Forfarshire County Council whereby the Burgh shares the services of the County Veterinary Inspector, recently appointed.

(s) *An account of the arrangements for the inspection of meat in slaughter-house, shops, and elsewhere in the Burgh.*

The meat brought into the Burgh is obtained from the slaughter-houses of Carnoustie and Dundee, and is there inspected before sale.

The Sanitary Inspector of this Burgh pays frequent visits to the butchers' shops, and inspects the meat there exposed for sale.

STATISTICS OF SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

The causes of death have been :—

Under one year—

Diseases of early Infancy and				
Malformations,	-			1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis,	-			1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System,			1	
			—	3
Scarlet Fever,	-	-	-	2
Influenza,	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System,	-			2
Malignant Tumours,	-	-	-	5
Meningitis,	-	-	-	1
Apoplexy,	-	-	-	6
Heart Disease,	-	-	-	3
Diseases of Arteries,	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2
Diseases of Liver	-	-	-	1
Nephritis	-	-	-	3
Other Violent Deaths,	-	-	-	3
Other Defined Diseases,	-	-	-	16
Causes ill-defined or unknown,	-	-	-	1
Total, -				<u>50</u>

In the different age periods we have :—

Under 1 year,				-	3
1 and under 5 years,				-	2
5	„	10	„	-	1
10	„	15	„	-	1
15	„	25	„	-	1
Carried Forward,				-	<u>8</u>

			Brought Forward,	-	8
25 and under 35	„	-	-	-	3
35	„	45	„	-	3
45	„	55	„	-	4
55	„	65	„	-	7
65	„	75	„	-	8
75	„	85	„	-	12
85 and over,		-	-	-	5
			Total,	-	<u>50</u>

In analysing the ages at death, it is worthy of note that there were only 14 deaths between the ages of 1-45, and 36 in the older age periods.

A tabular statement of Notified Infectious Disease within the Burgh, also a Form required by the Home Office re Factory and Workshops Act, on the Forms prescribed by the Scottish Board of Health, accompany this Report, and are herewith submitted for your information.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. GORRIE,
Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1926.

